

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Bounded by Boyd Street on the North, Timberdell Road on the South,
Chautauqua Avenue on the West, and Jenkins Avenue

Norman

Cleveland

Oklahoma

HALS OK-39

OK-39

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

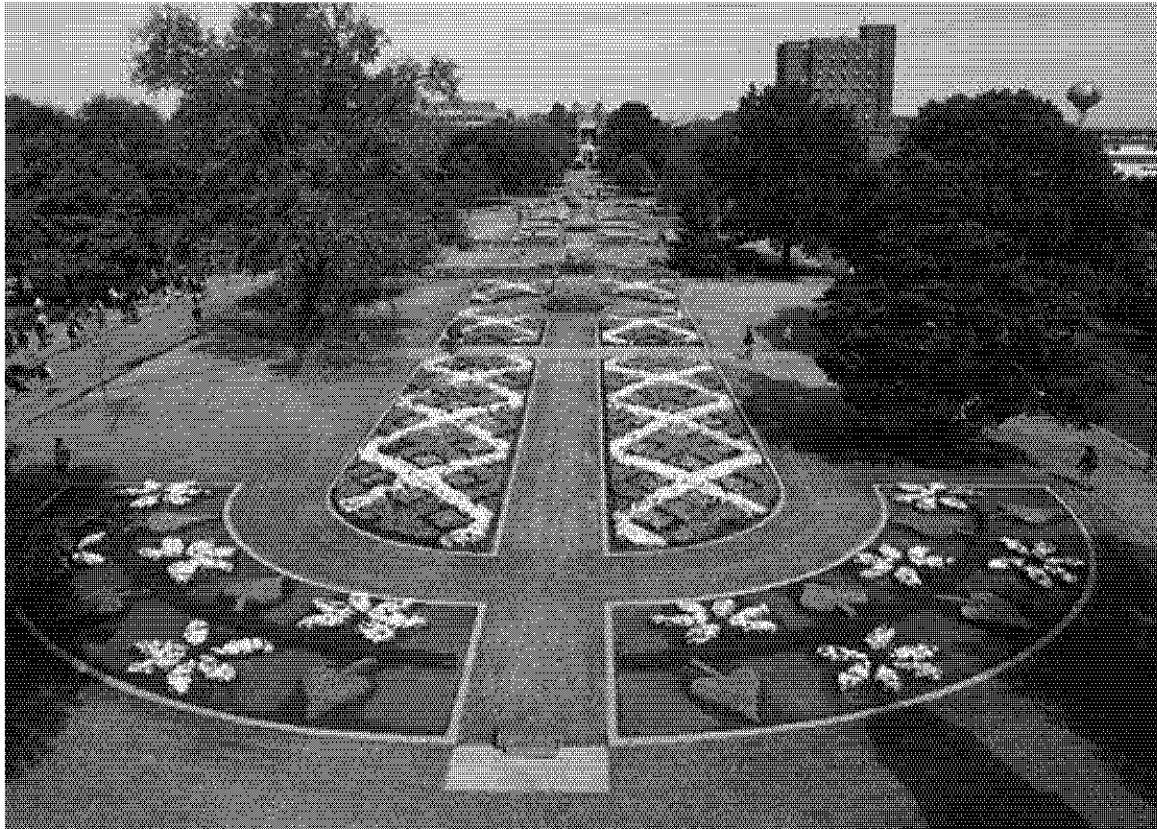
HALS NO. OK-39

- Location:** Bound by Boyd Street on the south, Timberdell on the south, Chautaugua on the west, and Jenkins Avenue on the east., Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma.
Lat: 35.205025 Long: -97.445897
- Significance:** As a result of the first territorial legislature, the University of Oklahoma was established in the city of Norman in 1890, 17 years before Oklahoma achieved statehood. Professor Vernon Louis Parrington created a plan for the development of the university. Most of the plan was not carried out, but it was the basis for the iconic ovals that form the core of the campus. Architecturally, many of buildings are either of the Gothic or Cherokee Gothic Style. Cherokee Gothic was coined by Frank Lloyd Wright after a visit to campus when he noticed a combination of features from the Gothic era mixed with styles distinct to local Native American tribes.
- History:** The most recognizable features of the university landscape are the ovals that provide circulation routes on the north and south sides of the campus. They were the product of designs by English Professor Vernon Parrington after a fire destroyed the university's only building in 1903. Most of his plans were not carried out, but his ideas for the ovals to form the core of the campus have created an iconic landscape element for the university. Many of the buildings on campus are of the distinct Cherokee Gothic Style.
- Four buildings on campus are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They include, the Bizzell Library, the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house, Casa Blanca house, and the Boyd house (university president's house).
- Sources:** The University of Oklahoma, <http://www.ou.edu/web.html> (accessed December 10, 2009).
- Historian:** Steve Eilers, December 10, 2009
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The south oval on the University of Oklahoma Campus
(<http://www.ou.edu/aoi/gala/AboutOU.htm>, accessed December 10, 2009).



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